

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently amended): Hose member adapted for installation as a flexible connection in a fluid transportation system, the hose member having a central region surrounded by a circumferential portion that defines an outermost external surface of the hose member and surrounds and encloses the central region, the central region being defined by either a longitudinal core member or a longitudinal central cavity, the circumferential portion comprising a number of metal tubes which are substantially parallel to each other and wound in a helical manner around a longitudinal axis of the hose member, the tubes having an internal diameter of about 1 to about 6 mm and a wall thickness of about 0.1 and about 0.5 mm to provide a compromise among compliance, strength and pressure drop of the hose member for use as the flexible connection in the fluid transportation system.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1,  
wherein each of the tubes has an internal diameter between 2 and 4 mm.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): Hose member according to claim 1,  
wherein each of the tubes have a wall thickness between 0.2 and 0.4 mm.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1,  
wherein each of the tubes has a pitch angle of about 50 to about 85 degrees.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1,  
wherein the circumferential portion is at least partly made of more than one  
layer of tubes.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1,  
wherein the tubes are at least partly embedded in a protective carrier.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1,  
wherein each tube is coated with a protective coating.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein the outermost external surface of the hose member is defined by the tubes and is ~~circumferential portion of the hose member defines~~ a substantially closed surface.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein the ends of the tubes at a first end of the hose member are all fluidically connected to a first manifold, and the ends of the tubes at an oppositely-disposed second end of the hose member are all fluidically connected to a second manifold, and the tubes define the flexible ~~so as to form a fluid~~ connection between the two manifolds.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn-currently amended): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein the central region of the hose member is defined by the core member, and the core member comprises a carrier made of a polymeric material.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein the metal tubes are formed of aluminium or an aluminium alloy.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein the hose member is installed in an automotive vehicle and the tubes transport a pressurized fluid.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein the central region of the hose member is defined by the longitudinal ~~a longitudinal~~ central cavity.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn-currently amended): Hose member adapted for installation as a flexible connection in a fluid transportation system, the hose member comprising:

a core member coinciding with a longitudinal axis of the hose member and extending from a first end to an oppositely-disposed second end of the hose member, the core member being formed of a polymeric material; and

a circumferential portion surrounding and contacting the core member and defining an outermost external surface of the hose member that surrounds and encloses the core member, the circumferential portion comprising a plurality of tubes that are substantially parallel to each other and wound in a helical manner around the core member, the tubes having an

internal diameter of about 1 to about 6 mm and a wall thickness of about 0.1 and about 0.5 mm to provide a compromise among compliance, strength and pressure drop of the hose member for use as the flexible connection in the fluid transportation system.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): Hose member according to claim 14, wherein the core member is formed of an elastomeric material.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): Hose member according to claim 14, wherein the hose member and the core member thereof are flexibly deformable in directions parallel to the longitudinal axis.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn-currently amended): Hose member according to claim 14, wherein the tubes are embedded in a protective carrier and the tubes and protective carrier define the outermost external surface of the hose member, and the outermost external surface is a closed surface surrounding and enclosing the core member.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): Hose member adapted for installation

as a flexible connection in a fluid transportation system, the hose member  
comprising:

an internal cavity coinciding with a longitudinal axis of the hose member  
and extending from a first end to an oppositely-disposed second end of the  
hose member; and

a circumferential portion surrounding the internal cavity, the  
circumferential portion comprising a plurality of tubes embedded in a  
protective carrier, the tubes being substantially parallel to each other and  
wound in a helical manner so as to define with the protective carrier a closed  
outermost external surface surrounding and enclosing the internal cavity, the  
tubes having an internal diameter of about 1 to about 6 mm and a wall  
thickness of about 0.1 and about 0.5 mm to provide a compromise among  
compliance, strength and pressure drop of the hose member for use as the  
flexible connection in the fluid transportation system.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 18,  
wherein the hose member is flexibly deformable in directions parallel to the  
longitudinal axis.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): Hose member according to claim 18, further comprising a longitudinal element protectively disposed within the internal cavity.

Claim 21 (New): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein the fluid transportation system is a vehicle braking system and the fluid contained by the tubes is brake fluid.

Claim 22 (New): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein the fluid transportation system is a vehicle air-conditioning system and the fluid contained by the tubes is carbon dioxide.